

Message Text

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20

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-07 MC-02 /065 W

----- 055641

P 100749Z SEP 76

FM AMCONSUL NAHA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2205

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAHA 438

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, JA

SUBJECT: RESUMPTION OF MARINE FIRING OVER HIGHWAY 104

1. 020448Z AUG 76 SENT ACTION EMBASSY TOKYO AND CG MCB CAMP BUTLER; INFO COMUSJAPAN, COMNAVFORJAPAN, COMMARCORBASESPAC, CG THIRD MAF AND CG THIRD MARDIV.
2. AS REQUESTED REPEATING SUBJECT MESSAGE. QUOTE
DIRECTOR AND KEY STAFF OF NAHA DEFENSE FACILITIES ADMINISTRATION BUREAU (DFAB), GOJ REPRESENTATIVE IN OKINAWA FOR ALL MATTERS CONCERNING MILITARY BASES HAVE AS RECENTLY AS EVENING SEPT 1 EXPRESSED TO CONSUL GENERAL COMPLETE AND UNQUALIFIED GOJ SUPPORT FOR MARINE FIRING EXERCISE WHICH IS PRESENTLY SCHEDULED TO COMMENCE ON SEPT 9. ACCORDING

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DFAB, GOJ POLICE AUTHORITIES HERE ARE FULLY PREPARED TO SUPPORT OPERATION, WHICH WILL BECOME KNOWN PUBLICLY ABOUT NOON SEPT 4 (OKINAWA TIME) WHEN DFAB MAKES REQUIRED NOTIFICATIONS TO PREFECTURAL GOVERNMENT AND LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES IN EXERCISE AREA. DURING SEPT 1 DISCUSSION AND ON OTHER OCCASIONS IN RECENT WEEKS, CONSUL GENERAL HAS DETECTED NO RPT NO INDICATION HERE IN OKINAWA THAT GOJ QUESTIONS MARINE REQUIREMENT TO FIRE OVER HIGHWAY 104 OR DESIRES THAT FIRING BE POSTPONED
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UNTIL SOME LATER DATE. FOR THEIR PART, DFAB BELIEVES

ARRANGEMENTS THAT HAVE BEEN WORKED OUT WITH POLICE AND MILITARY AUTHORITIES WILL ENABLE MARINES TO CARRY OUT EXERCISE SUCCESSFULLY. THEY BELIEVE THAT GENSUIKYO WILL NOT ATTEMPT TO ENTER IMPACT AREA THIS TIME AND WILL FAIL IN THEIR OVERALL EFFORTS TO BLOCK THIS EXERCISE. FINALLY, THEY BELIEVE THERE IS GOOD CHANCE THAT SUCCESSFUL EXERCISE ON THIS OCCASION WILL MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR MARINES TO CONDUCT SIMILAR EXERCISES IN FUTURE ON FAIRLY ROUTINE BASIS. DFAB NOTES THAT TO DATE OKINAWAN MUNICIPALITIES IN VICINITY OF EXERCISE AREA HAVE STAYED ON SIDELINES AND HAVE NOT ACTIVELY OPPOSED MARINE FIRING.

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3. REFORMIST PREFECTURAL GOVERNMENT, LOCAL PRESS AND ANTI-BASE ORGANIZATIONS CAN OF COURSE BE EXPECTED TO PROTEST MARINE LIVE FIRING AND IT WILL NO DOUBT BE TREATED AS MAJOR LOCAL POLITICAL ISSUE. HOWEVER, THERE IS NO INDICATION HERE (OR I AM TOLD IN TOKYO) THAT SUCH EXPECTED OPPOSITION WILL DETER GOJ FROM GIVING FULLEST SUPPORT TO WHAT GOJ (AND PUBLIC) HAS BEEN TOLD OVER PAST TWO YEARS IS IMPORTANT MARINE REQUIREMENT.J UNQUOTE.
KNOWLES

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